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SPOTLIGHT ON SPIES



Prepared and released by the
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Committee on Un-American Activities
U. S. House of Representatives



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Spotlight On Spies

This is the story of Communist spying in the United States. But don't look for the names of spies. We don't name them.

What we are trying to do is to show you that there IS such a thing as a Soviet spy system in our country, what it is after, how it works, and what it has succeeded in doing so far. It is the right and duty of every American citizen to know these facts.

The information we are setting before you is based on many long hours of investigation by the staff of the Committee on Un-American Activities and many hundreds of pages of testimony by witnesses, some of them former spies for the Soviet Union in the United States.

What is a spy?

A person employed by or in the service of a foreign government, either with or without pay, to secure information considered vital to the waging of a shooting or economic war against another country.

Will you find them in America?

Yes.

Are all spies in America citizens of foreign countries?

No. Many American citizens have been recruited in the service of other governments.

What governments have spied on us in the past?

The Germans during World Wars I and II had agents in this country. Many of these were caught and convicted.

The Russian Government has had spies in the United States since 1922, but their operations were not exposed until recently.

Why do the Russians continue to spy on us?

The aim of the rulers of Russia is to take over the United States along with the rest of the world. Her spies are here to pave the way for a Soviet America.

How do Soviet leaders think we can be taken over?

By a revolt led by Communists in this country during some kind of national economic crisis, or through an armed attack.

How big is the Soviet spying here?

Naturally, we can never know the exact size, but former ringleaders have confessed there are thousands of Russian agents, as well as many more thousands of Americans, who are selling us down the river.

In fact, we are the NUMBER ONE target of Russia's spy effort.

Does this constitute a dangerous situation?

To answer this it is only necessary to quote the testimony of the Honorable J. Edgar Hoover, Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, before this Committee, which was that "The Communist Party of the United States is a fifth column if there ever was one." He also said there are 74,000 Communist Party members in the United States, but, "What is important is the claim of the Communists themselves that for every Party member there are 10 others ready, willing, and able to do the Party's work.

This means that at a time of national crisis, the United States would have nearly 825,000 persons who are either spies, traitors, or saboteurs working against us from within.

Can our country afford this?

Why is the United States the number one target of the Soviet spy system?

Well, the United States is the most powerful and advanced nation on the earth today. Its scientific and technical success is matched by none. Russia wants the industrial capacity of the United States.

Just what are Soviet spies after?

Everything there is to know about the United States.

What do they want most?

Production secrets of the atom bomb.

What about other military defenses?

They want to know everything about them, too.

The Committee has uncovered recent secret orders from abroad to spy leaders in the United States listing twenty-odd categories of information they want on the armed strength of this country.

These include:

Aviation:

- Total number of aircraft formations; combat and numerical strength of units
- Distribution of base and alternate airfields, their technical equipment and characteristics
- Civilian aviation
- New types of planes
- New technical inventions in the aviation field, in detail, whether applicable in the air or on the ground
- Radar
- Robot planes

Ground troops:

- Infantry—numerical strength, distribution, organization, combat manuals, firing power, training status, morale, combat status, officers' staff

Artillery and armored troops, particularly production, application of V-1 and V-2

Navy:

- General description of the naval fleet and organization
- Principal Navy bases and descriptions

Chemical units:

- Organization and distribution
- New inventions in chemical warfare

Are the spies after diplomatic secrets?

Yes, they want American plans for dealing with Russia and other nations.

Also any secret or open agreements which America might have with other countries. Even the foreign policy ideas of individual politicians must be furnished by the spies.

What about our industry?

Soviet Russia keeps a close watch on it. Here are some of the things Communist spies have to report on, according to secret spy orders in the hands of the Committee on Un-American Activities:

- Principal branches of industry, especially war industry; the production of various enterprises and branches of industry
- Location of industry, especially war industries
- Status of various firms, their productive capacity, type of production, number employed
- Construction of new industrial plants, especially war plants
- Technical innovations in industry
- Work of engineers, research institutions, and laboratories

Any other economic facts?

Yes. For instance, everything about our natural resources and raw materials—with the stress on those having possible military value.

Is this all?

No. As we said, they want to know EVERYTHING about the United States.

But we don't make any secret of some of the things Russia wants, do we?

No. But Soviet Russia wants more than we are willing to give.

Well, America wouldn't let spies obtain our REAL secrets, would she?

Not intentionally, but an ex-Soviet spy told this Committee that this country is the easiest in the world for spies to work in and obtain secret information.

Why is this?

Because of the number of Soviet sympathizers whose jobs put them in a position to get secret information.

Because of the naive attitude of many Americans about the Communist danger.

Who runs the Communist spy system in America?

Russian Communists who are trained in espionage and sent over here to direct the spy work on the spot.

Are they the real bosses?

No. They are the "foremen." They see that American spies carry out Soviet orders for secret information and that the secret information gets back to Russia.

The REAL boss is the Soviet Government.

How do they get into this country?

One class of Russian spy leaders gets in on fake travel papers and quickly drops out of sight. Only trusted Communist lieutenants ever are in close contact with them. Even they know them only by some simple name such as "Al," "Carl," "Bill," or "Jack."

How else do Russian agents get in?

Some are sent here as military, political, or as other official representatives of the Soviet Government. They may be attached to the Soviet Embassy in Washington, D. C., or the United Nations headquarters in New York.

Still others are disguised as "commercial agents" for the Soviet Union. They have quietly carried on their spy work in such commercial firms as "World Tourists" and "Amtorg Trading Company" in New York City.

Even those officials who are not working with organized spy rings are ordered to collect what information they can while in the United States.

How could the United Nations be used?

An outstanding example is the former Russian military attaché in Canada, who was exposed as the head of a huge spy ring working against the Canadian Government. He was forced to leave Canada, but he later was admitted to the United States as a UN representative for the Soviet Union.

Or take the case of the Russian "engineer" stationed at UN headquarters in New York who was arrested by the FBI on March 4, 1949, with an American employee of our own Government and charged with spying.

Do these Russian spy agents work in one big ring?

No. They run a lot of separate spy rings. Each agent and his ring are kept in the dark about the work of the other rings.

Who serve as the actual thieves for these spy rings?

Self-styled "loyal" AMERICANS, believe it or not.

You mean an American would actually betray his own country to help Soviet Russia?

We have confessions to prove it.

But what kind of people can they be?

Treasonable creatures who enjoy the privileges of American citizenship and talk loudly about their loyalty, but all the time are REALLY loyal only to Russia.

This boils down to Communist Party members and their sympathizers.

Are all Communists spies?

Yes, in one sense, for it is every Communist's duty to report anything he learns that might help the Soviet Union.

But in the organized spy rings, whose target includes America's top secrets, only carefully selected Communists and sympathizers are used.

How are American Communists recruited for spy rings?

First of all, every Communist's record is filed in Moscow. When Soviet leaders notice an American Communist who seems particularly suitable for spy work or is in a good spot to learn American secrets, or render some other service, he is marked for the role of a spy.

Sometimes American leaders recommend a comrade for the work, and Moscow checks his record and gives the okay.

What kind of records does Moscow keep?

Everything about a person. For instance, his job, education, family, acquaintances, finances, politics, criminal record, if any, and personal habits. Even such personal things as his ability to hold liquor. Some of this information can be used as a club over the individual if he threatens to break.

Are American Communists trained in spy work?

Not in any formal way. All Party work involves secret, underhanded actions so a seasoned Communist could step right into spy work when ordered.

If inexperienced Communists are in a spot to help the spy rings, they might be given "special treatment."

What is this "special treatment"?

They are invited to join small Communist "study groups" which to outsiders appear to be harmless social gatherings or discussion groups.

Actually, these gatherings are used to teach the "students" blind loyalty to the Soviet Union and to get them into a conspiratorial frame of mind against the American Government.

Then what?

Communist spy agents get progress reports on the "students" and when it looks as though they are ready to do anything for the Soviet Union, the agents will take them into the spy rings.

Do these Americans betray their country for money?

Not all the time. Sometimes when an American Communist enters a spy ring, he is shocked if money is offered to him.

Russian agents have had to trick some American agents into taking rewards.

What's back of these rewards?

Useful as blackmail in case a spy gets scared and wants to quit. For that reason, spies who receive money are forced to sign receipts which are sent to Moscow.

How can spies be tricked into taking money?

Usually by giving them lump sums of money for "expenses."

Then there are "good will" presents such as expensive rugs, which four American spies in high U. S. Government jobs received from the Soviet Government.

Is an American ever "forced" into a spy ring?

Sometimes. We know of an American in our War Department who was scared into stealing secrets because the Russians threatened to harm his relatives in Russia.

Russian agents make a special effort to find out and use Americans with close relatives in the Soviet Union.

Would anyone but a fool be willing to spy for Russia?

No. But you'll find "fools" in pretty HIGH places.

Soviet spy rings contain well-educated and able Americans who are looked up to by their fellow men. They may be scientists, lawyers, professors, writers, Government career workers, and even successful businessmen who have been filled with Communist poison.

Do these spies really know what they're doing?

Wouldn't you?

Well, just how does a spy ring operate?

Picture a production line. At one end, we have the American spy, who is stealing material Russia is interested in. Next, we have the "go-between" who receives the material from the spy and passes it on to the Russian boss. Then it's headed for Russia.

Can you give more details?

Let's take it step by step.

Suppose the American spy works in the War Department. He keeps his eyes and ears open for every bit of information he can learn. He goes out of his way to be friendly with others who might know something of value. He snoops in the files and records when no one is looking. He learns a lot this way, because no one knows he is a spy.

What happens then?

Committee investigations have shown that the spy turns his information over to a "go-between" or "courier." Sometimes he tells the courier what he has heard; sometimes he gives him notes, and copies of letters or other papers revealing secret plans. Sometimes he even steals original records from the Government files and turns them over to the courier.

Just who is this "courier"?

A trusted American Communist who acts as messenger for a Russian spy boss. This courier picks up information gathered by American spies and passes on to them orders from the Russian agent in charge.

If the Russian had to personally contact all his spies, he would arouse suspicion.

How does the spy get information to the courier?

They make a date to meet—maybe at a restaurant, a drug store, or the home of a Communist. Maybe even in a park or on a street corner. There the spy turns over his material and finds out if the Russians want any particular job done. The spy knows the courier only by some alias such as "Carl" or "Helen."

Is this the only way?

No. The spy can mail information to an address of a trusted Communist, where the courier will pick it up.

What's the next step?

Well, the courier has to get the stuff to a Russian agent. One ex-courier told us he would sometimes have a trusted photographer make tiny pictures of the secret information (known as microfilm) so that it could be delivered less conspicuously.

In the case of original documents that were stolen, they had to be photographed right away so the spy could put them back in the files before they were missed.

How does the courier carry this stolen booty?

The most obvious ways, in the cases we know of.

A brief case, or, if the courier is a woman, a large purse, knitting bag, or shopping bag.

And then?

The courier furtively hands over his haul to a Russian agent whose job is to get it to Russia.

How DOES it get there?

There are plenty of tricky ways. For instance:

Short-wave radio, if it's "hot" news

Diplomatic mail pouches from Soviet Government officials here

Russian officials who travel back and forth on United Nations and other business

Russian undercover agents traveling on false passports

Communist businessmen whose custom it is to take business trips abroad

Communist seamen

How can a seaman help?

Easy. No one pays any attention to his traveling because it's his livelihood. Even if his ship doesn't touch Russia, he can still deliver secret messages to Communists in other countries, who will see that they reach Moscow. Sometimes these people are not really seamen at all, but Communist agents with fake seamen's papers.

What precautions are taken in sending stolen material?

Radio messages are sent in code.

Official Russian mail cannot be opened by anyone.

And for Russian undercover agents and Communist seamen who serve as couriers, there are countless clever ways to hide secret information.

Can you name some of these?

The back is removed from a dime-store pocket mirror, tiny photographs of secret material are inserted against the glass, and the back is then replaced.

How else?

Tiny photographic films, containing secret messages, are soaked in a solution to make them flexible as cloth. Then this soft film is tightly rolled up, put into a small cylinder, and inserted into a tube of toothpaste.

Any other methods?

Sometimes the film is softened in the same way and cut up and sewed inside the lining of neckties.

Messages have also been placed in hollow parts of toys and in the hollow handles of safety razors.

What happens when the information gets to Russia?

The Russians sort out the information which is pouring in. Bits of information from separate American spy rings are pieced together. If something is missing to make a complete picture of some American project, orders go back to the spy rings to concentrate on that particular point.

Don't spies ever duplicate each other's work?

All the time. Because, besides carrying out special orders, American spies pick up any and all information they can lay their hands on. Furthermore, each spy ring in America works independently of the others.

The screening process takes place in Russia.

Isn't this a costly operation?

Sure. But it's so important to the Soviet Union that money is no object. Russian agents are free-handed in their offers of "gifts" to American spies. They have handed out as much as two thousand dollars at a time.

Where does the money come from?

The Soviet Government, and sometimes wealthy American Communists or sympathizers.

Where does the Communist Party of the United States fit into the scheme?

It's a separate organization from the huge spy network although the network draws upon the Party for spies and couriers and any other help it may need.

But wouldn't spies who are Party workers be easy to spot?

No. For it is Party policy to give "super" secret membership to certain classes of people such as students, scientists, teachers, office workers, administrative, and Government workers.

Other Party members are kept from knowing these people are in the Party. They never hold Party membership cards or attend regular Party meetings. In fact, they're not allowed even to discuss their real political view with anybody.

So what job a Communist holds has a lot to do with his selection for spy work?

Yes, if he's in a position to steal information for the Russians. And a file clerk can be as useful as an executive.

But a highly placed Communist is valuable in still another way—he can use his influence to get other Communists into jobs involving secret information.

What about spies in our Government?

Two former couriers for spies within our Government told your Committee how they worked.

One courier headed a ring of spies who were in such Federal agencies as the War, State, Navy, Justice, Treasury, Labor, Agriculture, and Commerce Departments. The other received information from high Government officials.

The couriers said other spy rings operated at the same time in our Government.

Were the spies in spots where they could steal secrets?

Several spies had such important jobs that it was their duty to handle confidential State Department papers.

Several others actually worked within one of our Government's own intelligence groups during the war. Others within the armed forces.

Did they succeed in stealing information?

Your Committee has copies of more than 60 secret State Department papers—dealing with American diplomatic relations with other countries—which were stolen by a spy. We can't tell you what some of them say because even now it would endanger the safety of our country.

Yet this was just the result of one spy's work in one week. **THINK WHAT THE TOTAL OUTPUT MUST BE.**

Are spies after our Government secrets RIGHT NOW?

You can be sure of it.

Where would you find spies in industry?

Well, we told you they wanted to know everything about our industry.

But, particularly watch for them in:

Atomic plants	Steel firms
Aviation companies	Maritime industries
Submarine companies	Chemical and other research institutions
Munitions works	Communications
Transportation	Oil and mining industries

Why these particularly?

Important from a war angle.

What has happened in the atomic field?

Since the atom bomb is Russia's chief worry right now, she has several spy rings concentrating on that alone.

Where are these atomic spies?

Your Committee has shown that they have penetrated right to the very heart of our atomic work. Some agents working for the Communists have contacted scientists working in the most secret branches of atomic research.

Then haven't they made away with some of our atomic secrets?

We KNOW they have, but just how much of the entire formula of the bomb is unknown.

How about aviation?

We know of a Russian agent, skilled in aviation, who, with the help of other spies, collected a huge store of confidential aviation data. It

contained photographs, blueprints, and notes which were personally flown to Moscow by the chairman of the then active Soviet Purchasing Commission.

Two spies were decorated by the Soviet Government for this.

And the submarine field?

Blueprints, photographs, and technical descriptions have been sneaked out of American submarine companies by spies and sent to Moscow.

In several cases, Russian agents directing the work were Soviet naval captains pretending to be civilians with entirely different interests.

Can you give an example in the steel industry?

Yes. An American scientist held a top research job with one of our biggest steel companies. He was a spy and, every week or two, he flew half way across the country to turn over information to a Russian spy agent.

What is the interest in steel?

New formulas for making it, for one thing. The amount of steel produced is another.

What Communists in industry CAN be trusted?

None, when you get right down to it. It's every Communist's duty, even as a mechanic or office worker, to pick up any information around the plant he can lay hands on. Though he may not act under an organized spy ring, he can often turn up information which Moscow wants.

This applies to Communists in the Government and anywhere else, too.

How would secrets from Communists outside a spy ring get to Russia?

Here's one example:

A Communist in a submarine-building plant regularly gave information he gathered about the plant to the Communist Party organizer in his district. The organizer sent it on to national Communist Party headquarters which in turn handed it over to a Russian spy.

Any other way?

Communist union officials could also send through the channels described above any important material collected by a Communist worker.

Just how successful is the Soviet spy system in America?

An Army general said that when this country is compared with Canada you get some idea of the success because Russian spies in Canada obtained an enormous amount of information.

Why can we be sure of this?

Because the spies have been with us for close to 30 years and America is only beginning to wake up to the fact that there are such things as Soviet spies.

Until lately, Communists even succeeded in getting Government positions no matter how secret the work.

All this is pretty serious, isn't it?

Very, very serious.

But in the case of much important information, Russian agents haven't had to steal it. We have GIVEN it away.

What do you mean?

For one thing, we have tried to be friendly to Russia and as a result Russian officials have been able to collect a lot of our industrial and military inventions just by buying patents for the inventions from our Government Patent Office. This is done right out in the open with our permission.

Has this been done on a large scale?

So large that Russia has practically EVERY American patent dealing with industrial, chemical, and military inventions which have been released to the public. This runs into the hundreds of thousands.

What do these patents cover?

Here are a few of the types bought by Russia:

Bomb sight
Military tank
Airplane
Ship control

Bomb-dropping device
Helicopter
Mine sweeper
Ammunition

Bullet-resisting armor

But won't Russia do the same for us?

Russia has refused to give out a single one of her patents since 1927.

What else have we GIVEN away?

During the war, because they were our allies, Russian visitors were invited to inspect our country and its defense industries. One of the results was that the Russians betrayed our friendship and printed a thick book which can easily be used as a handbook for bombing and sabotage against the United States.

What does the book show?

In pictures, maps, and words, the location and lay-outs of our Nation's large power dams and power plants, aircraft and auto factories, plants dealing with metals, bridges, railroads, and important communications.

Is America doing anything to protect herself from Soviet spies?

Yes. The world's finest investigative agency is on the job—the FBI. It is aided by Military and Naval Intelligence.

Isn't this enough?

Far from it. Every patriotic American must be on the alert and report all suspicious activities brought to his or her attention to either the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Army or Navy Intelligence services, local police departments, and/or the Committee on Un-American Activities.

This is particularly important since the spy network is growing bigger because of new sources for spies.

What are these new sources?

New Communist governments such as Poland, Hungary, Czechoslovakia, Bulgaria, and Albania.

How is this of help to Russia?

These countries send Communists over here to represent them in their embassies and legations, in the United Nations, and on other missions.

These Communists are just as willing to spy for Russia as a Russian Communist. For all Communists everywhere are loyal to the Soviet Union.

Is there any proof?

The former top military officer of a Russian satellite embassy, in Washington, D. C., got disgusted with the Communists and exposed a spy ring working from his embassy.

What did he confess?

He said the spy ring he knew about in America was Nation-wide and looking for scientific, political, and industrial information about our country.

He said the ring was directed from the Russian Embassy in Washington and information collected sent out in diplomatic mail pouches to Russia by way of another country.

What else did he say?

That other spy rings could be found here in the embassies and legations of all Balkan countries under control of Russia.

When necessary, the United Nations was also used as a hide-out for these Balkan Communist spies.

What should we do about the Soviet spy system in America?

Redouble our efforts to root out the spies and send them to jail or to Russia.

Since American Communists are so necessary to the Soviet spy rings, we must also concentrate on exposing every one of them, wherever they may be found.

New laws are needed, too.

What kind of laws?

Laws that will give tougher penalties to anyone stealing secret information for Russia, whether in peace or in war.

Laws that will clamp down on the activities of Russian agents in this country and of American Communists in foreign countries. Any other laws that will help us stamp out the spy network, as well as Communist cells.

Is it too late to start now?

Of course not. Spying is a never-ending business with the Russians.

New secrets are being born every day as American science and industry progress.

What we do NOW to stop the spies and Communists means a lot to the future safety of our country.

What is the Committee on Un-American Activities doing about all this?

Your Committee's job is to show the American people what the Communists are up to, and suggest any new laws needed to deal with them.

The Committee is doing everything it can to run down the Communist spy rings in this country and has already succeeded in exposing many of the spies. It has also offered a new law to Congress and is studying still others—all aimed at curbing the Communist spy business.

What can I do to help?

Do some deep thinking about what the Soviet spy system and the American Communist mean to the safety of our country.

Then let your Government and your Congress know that you want to see REAL ACTION to rid our country of these menaces.



Conditions in America present the most fertile soil for Soviet espionage.

—VICTOR KRAVCHENKO,
Former Soviet official.

The Communist Party is like a submerged submarine; the part that you see above water is the periscope, but the part underneath is the real Communist organization; that is the conspiratorial apparatus.

—J. PETERS,
*Russian head of a Communist
spying in the U. S. A.*



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